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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

LI *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/266,935

Filed: March 12, 1999

For: **Composition and Methods for Enhanced Synthesis of Nucleic Acid Molecules**

Confirmation No.: 6420

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Riley, J.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4560001/RWE/BJD

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the final Office Action dated September 17, 2002 (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 24), a Request for Continued Examination having been filed herewith, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

(A) A clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim along with clear instructions for entry;

(B) Starting on a separate page, appropriate remarks and arguments.

37 C.F.R. § 1.121 and MPEP 714; and

(C) Starting on a separate page, a marked-up version entitled: "Version with markings to show changes made."

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this

paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claim 55 for the pending claim 55:

55. (Once amended) A composition for use in synthesizing a nucleic acid molecule, comprising one or more enzymes having nucleic acid polymerase activity and one or more compounds having a chemical formula selected from the group consisting of formula I or formula II, or a salt thereof, wherein said compound is not betaine:

Formula I:

